

**MINUTES OF
FAUQUIER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
JANUARY 30, 2002**

Members Present: William P. Jones, Chairman; Matthew Smith, Vice-Chairman; Harry Atherton, Ann McCarty, Per Bang-Jensen, Gary Christie, Laurence Mason, R. E. Moore, Sam Poles and Liz Cook.

Members Absent: None

Guests Present: Philip "Jeff" Place; Anne Michael Moorhead; Wendy West; Larry Lehman; and Tony Hooper.

Staff Present: Fran Williams

1. Discuss Taking Baldwin Ridge Subdivision Roads Into State System, South Run Road, Honeysuckle Road and Valley Drive -- Wendy West.

Wendy West discussed her concerns about three (3) roads in the Baldwin Ridge Subdivision (South Run Road, Honeysuckle Road and Valley Drive), which connect from Kelly Road (Route 675). These roads contain approximately 0.2 of a mile and she would like to see them paved and maintained by the State. Ms. West expressed concern about the amount of traffic that exceeds the posted speed limit of 35 mph on Kelly Road. This creates a dangerous situation for those who are turning into Baldwin Ridge Subdivision. She is especially concerned because she has almost been rear-ended several times. Also, the County requires her children to meet the school bus at Kelly Road, which creates a danger for them since it is approximately 0.4 of a mile from her house. Further, the grade off Hillside is another concern. The residents have put concrete in at the top of the hill just before Hillside, but it continues to wash out. When Emergency Services recently responded to a call for her nephew, she was told they would not come down their road again since it is in such poor condition. She stated there is already a 50' right-of-way and the roads meet all of the requirements to be accepted into the State system.

Bob Moore stated that the Committee has received her request. VDOT has looked at the deeds showing the right-of-way. The roads meet all the guidelines for being accepted into the Secondary system. However, it is a matter of competing with other requests that have been received. Some of the other requests that have been received include Springdale Road off Route 605; Nightingale Lane near Opal, which is close to getting their right-of-way signed and Tuckers Lane.

Wendy West stated that the residents of Baldwin Ridge Subdivision do not want to have a Road Maintenance Agreement. She has spent her own money to put gravel on the road. There is also another resident who tries to maintain the road on a yearly basis out of the kindness of his heart.

Bob Moore recalled that this request was left on the Six-Year Plan for consideration at a later time.

Larry Lehman stated that while he has not heard anything definitive, he was under the impression that the Committee did agree to have the County attorney check into the deeds. It was his understanding that the answer did come back that there is a right-of-way and a deed would be prepared. When he examined the County's land records he found that the original large tract

shows the full acreage and then it is broken out into each individual lot and then the survey shows pins 50' wide for the roads. At some point the land falls out of the land records.

Harry Atherton stated that this subdivision was started in approximately 1964 and then the builder went bankrupt. While he is reluctant to have Paul McCulla, the County Attorney, spend a great deal of time on this, he will have him look at the deed.

Bill Jones stated that the Committee is considering a total of approximately one-half mile for acceptance into the State system. This subdivision has a total of ten houses. Mr. Jones stated that all property owners must agree to have the roads accepted into the State system. Mrs. West clarified her earlier statement, saying that the residents of Baldwin Ridge Subdivision would definitely like to have the roads accepted into the State system, they just do not want to have to spend any money for road maintenance.

Wendy West stated that if cost is an issue for all three (3) roads, she would like to see these roads considered for acceptance into the State system as three (3) separate projects. Honeysuckle Road is her biggest concern at this time. Larry Lehman asked if it would be possible to have the State grade the roads and put gravel on them since the roads cannot be paved at this time.

Bob Moore replied that VDOT's policy is that if they are going to take a road into the State system and maintain it, they need to have enough money to rebuild the road to a point where it can be surfaced. VDOT is now putting its effort into maintaining the County's existing gravel roads. The initial cost of surfacing a road is high, but then it is less effort to maintain.

Bill Jones summarized what was discussed, stating that 1) ***Mr. Atherton will check with the County attorney about the legal issues involved.*** 2) There are currently are ten (10) homes on the three (3) streets in Baldwin Ridge Subdivision; 3) If the Committee does decide to consider the roads as three (3) separate projects, Honeysuckle Road will be the top priority.

Per Bang-Jensen stated that the Committee should have a rough estimate of the cost and the number of homes affected on various roads requesting acceptance into the State system. To the extent that a road is a connecting road, there should be categories of roads that are cul-de-sacs and non cul-de-sacs. A contributing factor might be if it benefits others who are not residents of a particular road.

Harry Atherton suggested that Mrs. West poll all the residents of Baldwin Ridge Subdivision to be sure they are in agreement with her request to have these roads accepted into the State system. Mrs. West stated that she would draw up a petition and submit it to the Committee.

Bill Jones stated that no decision would be made at this time, however, he will respond in writing to Mrs. West in order to identify what needs to be done. Matthew Smith suggested the installation of a "Watch for Turning Vehicles" sign. Mrs. West further stated that there are a number of trees impairing sight distance. Bill Jones stated he is aware of the sight distance problems in this location due to a blind curve.

Bill Jones suggested looking at the right-of-way and doing some clearing as well as looking into the possibility of installing a "Hidden Entrance" sign on Kelly Road. Bob Moore stated that these signs do not usually do any good.

2. *Discuss Closing a Portion of Enon School Road.*

Jeff Place, who owns four (4) of the seven (7) lots in Bushrod Subdivision on Enon School Road, addressed the Committee to request that a portion of Enon School Road be closed. This request comes because of problems he is experiencing with people riding 4-wheelers through the property and leaving behind litter. Mr. Place feels this is a safety issue.

Bob Moore stated that in order for the Board of Supervisors to hold a Public Hearing on the requested road abandonment, they would need something in writing in order to make sure all the residents are in agreement. Harry Atherton asked if Clover Hill residents would be affected. Ann McCarty stated that a Public Hearing should be held in order to determine if there are any concerns.

Per Bang-Jensen asked if there is any reason from VDOT's point of view for not abandoning a portion of this road. Harry Atherton stated that any concerns would be brought out during the Public Hearing.

On motion made by Harry Atherton and seconded by Ann McCarty, it was moved to recommend that the Board of Supervisors hold a Public Hearing to consider the abandonment of a portion of Enon School Road. The motion carried unanimously.

3. *Consider the Proposed Relocation of Route 648 Near the Warrenton-Fauquier Airport – Tony Hooper, Assistant County Administrator.*

Tony Hooper informed the Committee that the County is in the process of making major improvements at the airport with the help of Federal and State grants. Over the past five to six years the County has acquired land to widen and extend the runway to 5,000'. The existing gravel road will need to be relocated along the edge of the property; one right-of-way will need to be abandoned and another one relocated in order to clear the safety areas to meet FAA rules and regulations. The relocation of the road will require action by the Board of Supervisors for approval.

On motion made by Harry Atherton and seconded by Larry Mason, it was moved to recommend that the Board of Supervisors advertise for a Public Hearing to consider the relocation of the road.

4. *Consider Making a Recommendation on the Secondary Road Improvement Budget for FY 2002-2003 and the FY 2002-2003 Six-Year Improvement Program and Primary Road Funding Priorities.*

Bob Moore stated that the formal Six-Year Revised Plan will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in March with a resolution. Mr. Moore will also include a worksheet with general information on each item as well as the financial plan. He noted that the main ones to keep on line are Carter's Run Bridge and the Route 737 bridge near Conde. There will be a citizen's meeting held concerning Moss Hollow Road near Markham.

5. *Discuss Design Concerns for the Proposed Route 17/28 Intersection.*

Bob Moore stated that VDOT had planned to hold a Public Hearing on the interchange design at Routes 17 and 28. Concerns have been raised about the traffic flow in Bealeton and the close proximity to schools in the area. Mr. Moore stated that the entrances for Liberty High School and Grace Miller Elementary School were taken into consideration prior to their construction. There is also concern about the accident rate, which is above State average, as well as increasing traffic in the area. Harry Atherton asked if there is anything the Committee can do. Mr. Moore replied

that it is up to the Committee to decide if they want to take a position. Matthew Smith said he would prefer to wait for the Public Hearing. Larry Mason stated he would rather talk with Sharon McCamy before making a recommendation.

6. *Receive an Update on Tuckers Lane.*

Bob Moore stated that it was his understanding that in 1995 the Board agreed to ask VDOT to accept a short section, the flat portion, of Tuckers Lane into the State system. Per Bang-Jensen noted that residents on the steeper portion of Tuckers Lane may have mistakenly been under the impression that their section would also be accepted into the State system. Mr. Moore stated that some portions of this road are too mountainous to be accepted into the State system. He suggested that at some point the Committee should respond in writing to citizens who make requests in order to notify them of what decision was made. Bob Jones suggested determining the status of the right-of-way issue and then responding to these residents.

Bob Moore will determine which portion of Tuckers Lane will be affected and its length. Harry Atherton and Liz Cook will get with GIS to identify which property owners will be affected. After getting this information, Liz Cook will contact Robert Blake, a resident of Tuckers Lane, who addressed the Committee in November to discuss the necessary deeds.

7. *Receive an Update on Wesley Chapel Road.*

Liz Cook stated she has spoken with Kevin Burke, Deputy County Attorney, concerning Wesley Chapel Road. Paul McCulla prepared a letter, which was sent by Harry Atherton, discussing various methods of abandoning property. Mrs. Cook is still working on some of the details of this issue.

8. *Other Items.*

- A. Bill Jones stated that he has received several e-mails concerning road maintenance issues. He received one from Mr. Danko concerning Muster Road (Route 706) across from Big K radio. He has also received one from Wendy West about roads in Baldwin Ridge Subdivision. He will coordinate with Bob Moore and then respond to her.
- B. Gary Christie informed the Committee of a study that will be conducted this Spring concerning the possibility of a telecommuting center in Fauquier County as well as other areas throughout the region. The telecommuting centers would allow citizens to work out of their homes or at a facility with access to computers and data lines. There are currently centers in Winchester, Fredericksburg and Manassas. These centers are usually publicly funded. Funds are being sought from the Transportation Planning Division (80%) and the Regional Commission would provide the remaining 20%. Per Bang-Jensen asked if Vint Hill would be a suitable site for a telecommuting center. Gary Christie responded that Vint Hill is very interested in this. Larry Mason suggested getting information on the percentage of utilization and just how successful these centers have been in other areas.
- C. Harry Atherton expressed the Committee's sympathy to Bob Moore on the recent accident that claimed the life of a contract highway work who was struck by a dump truck.
- D. Ann McCarty expressed concerns about VDOT's dumping in the median strip by Carrington Road near Learning Tree Farms. Sam Poles also noted that others are dumping there as well.

- E. Liz Cook and Harry Atherton recently attended an information meeting on the I-66 Multi Mobile Transportation Environmental Study. ***Mrs. Cook will provide a copy at the next meeting for those who are interested.***
- F. Liz Cook stated that she would like to include a discussion on the County's public and private street policies on the Committee's agenda sometime in the near future. Mrs. Cook noted that most of the private streets being constructed in the County are not required to have gravel. Per Bang-Jensen noted that a person who purchases a new home on a public street is paying several thousand dollars more than if it were on a private street. Then several years later the homeowner on the private street comes to the Committee wanting their streets fixed.

Bill Jones stated that while nothing can be done about those who have already applied, in the future there could be a requirement that a disclosure should be put in the deed.

Per Bang-Jensen asked Bob Moore how VDOT's budget is determined, whether by the County's population, the number of roads, or the County's size. Mr. Moore stated that it is mainly determined by road mileage.

- G. Bob Moore stated that the citizens of Springdale Subdivision near Rock Springs are anticipating something being done about their roads. Bill Jones noted that this is a safety issue because of a commercial business (kennel) located there, which brings increased traffic. ***Bob Moore will check with Paul McCulla, the County Attorney, on this issue.***

Per Bang-Jensen expressed concern about accepting roads into the State system on the basis of who comes in first. Mr. Bang-Jensen feels the Committee should consider the cost, number of homes and other factors.

On motion made by Bill Jones and seconded by Harry Atherton, it was moved to recommend that the Board of Supervisors consider adding the roads in Springdale Subdivision (Woodlawn Lane and Greenbrier Road) to the Rural Addition. The motion carried unanimously.

- H. Bob Moore distributed a draft of the process for private roads to become part of the Secondary Road System. ***He suggested that the Committee look this over and provide comments at the next meeting.***
- I. Bob Moore stated that a VDOT Public Hearing is scheduled for March 26 at the Orlean Volunteer Fire Department from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. concerning the Carter's Run Bridge project.

Bob Moore stated that VDOT's funding from fuel taxes has slowed. Also affected is the approximately \$200,000,000.00 in federal funds VDOT was expecting. This will mean the delay of some projects.

- J. Bill Jones stated that trucks making a wrong turn on Academy Hill Road have to back all the way out because the residents of the house at the end of the road have put up a barricade. This is causing a safety concern. Bob Moore stated that VDOT performs a yearly inspection of roads within the Town of Warrenton.

Bill Jones further stated that there are a number of bicyclists on the roads. Mr. Moore noted that these cyclists sometimes ride down the roads two abreast, causing a safety concern. Gary Christie stated he is working with the Town of Remington for bike signage and more bike paths.

K. Liz Cook stated that the Committee should elect officers at its next meeting.

9. *Consider Approval of November 28, 2001 Committee Meeting Minutes.*

On motion made by Harry Atherton and seconded by Larry Mason, it was moved to approve the November 28, 2001 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 P.M.